

**OVERVIEW**

Two components of Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) are important to GSA facilities:

- **The Superfund Program**, which is administered by EPA in cooperation with state governments, provides for the liability of persons responsible for the release of hazardous substances.
- **The Release Notification Program** requires that notification be made to EPA if an amount of a hazardous substance greater than or equal to its reportable quantity (RQ) is released into the environment in a 24-hour period.

**GSA Responsibilities**

- Report hazardous substance and petroleum releases to the National Response Center (NRC) and
- Follow the National Contingency Plan (NCP) in responding to releases at GSA-owned or operated facilities

**Headquarters  
Environmental Staff  
Responsibilities**

- Submits biennial report to EPA each odd-numbered year

**Regional  
Safety and Environmental  
Management Personnel  
Responsibilities**

- Notifies NRC, EPA, and local authorities of releases in excess of an RQ
- Notifies Headquarters Environmental Staff of releases and if GSA is identified as a PRP
- Ensures proper procedures are taken to control and clean up releases
- Submits a biennial report to Headquarters Environmental Staff by November 1 of each odd-numbered year

**Customer Service  
Representative  
Responsibilities**

- Receives notification of any release at a GSA facility from the person who first observes the release
- Receives notification if GSA is identified as a Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) in any Superfund action
- Notifies Regional Environmental Staff of any release or if GSA is identified as a PRP

**Superfund Regulations**

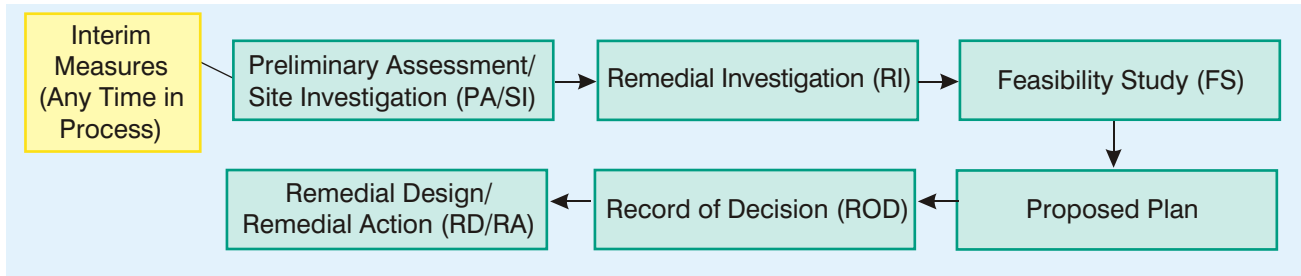
Citation	Topic
40 CFR part 300	Hazardous Substance Designation, Reportable Quantities, and Release Notification Requirements <a href="http://www.epa.gov/docs/epacfr40/chapt-I.info/chi-toc.htm">http://www.epa.gov/docs/epacfr40/chapt-I.info/chi-toc.htm</a>
40 CFR part 302	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan <a href="http://www.epa.gov/docs/epacfr40/chapt-I.info/chi-toc.htm">http://www.epa.gov/docs/epacfr40/chapt-I.info/chi-toc.htm</a>

**Further Information**

- **PBS Environmental Hotline**  
(800) 379-6505 or [pbshotline@ene.com](mailto:pbshotline@ene.com)
- **GSA Home Page**  
<http://www.gsa.gov> - Search Term "Hazardous Waste"
- **PBS Environmental Programs Home Page**  
(GSA intranet users only)  
<http://insite.gsa.gov/pbs/environmental>
- **EPA CERCLA Hotline**  
(800) 424-9346
- **EPA Superfund Home Page**  
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund>
- **National Response Center (NRC)**  
(800) 424-8802

## SUPERFUND PROCESS

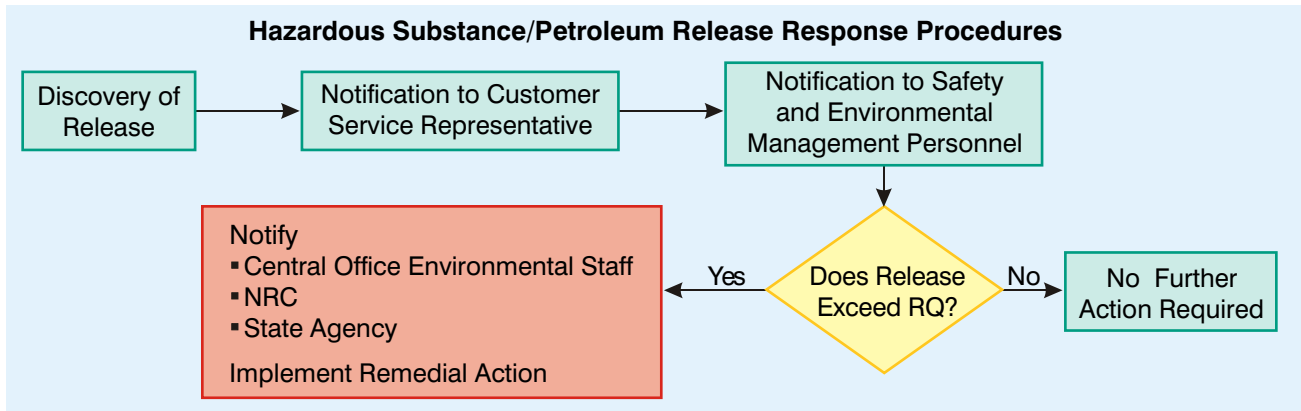
The Superfund remedial process begins when EPA is notified that a release has occurred. Once discovered, sites are tracked in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database and then evaluated by EPA to determine if and to what extent cleanup is required. Releases at federal facilities are subject to the same cleanup requirements as non-federal properties.



## REPORTING

### Release Notification

GSA must notify the NRC, EPA, and local response agencies when a release of a hazardous substance in excess of an RQ is discovered.



### Biannual Reporting -

A hazardous waste site biennial inventory must be submitted to EPA each odd-numbered year. Safety and Environmental Management Personnel must submit inventory data to Central Office Environmental Team by November 1 of each odd-numbered year.

Key Terms	
<b>Hazardous Substance</b>	Any substance designated as hazardous by EPA pursuant to 40 CFR Part 302. A list of hazardous substances is provided in 40 CFR Part 302.4.
<b>CERCLIS</b>	<b>Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System</b> - Computerized inventory of all potential hazardous substances release sites.
<b>NCP</b>	<b>National Contingency Plan</b> - The regulations that describe the federal government's plan for responding to releases of hazardous substances and petroleum products. See 40 CFR Part 300.
<b>NPL</b>	<b>National Priorities List</b> - A list of all hazardous substances releases that are priorities for long-term evaluation and response.
<b>NRC</b>	<b>National Response Center</b> - A response center operated 24 hours/day to receive reports on all hazardous substance and petroleum releases and maintain a database of all reported releases.
<b>RQ</b>	<b>Reportable Quantity</b> - The quantity of a hazardous substance released in a 24-hour period that triggers reporting requirements.